protected animals in Rajasthan; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Minister of State for Welfare is reported to have said that she has report of some erstwhile Royal Family members regularly going on hunting expeditions nearby Delhi, if so, the details thereof and identity of the Royal family concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per report received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan on the night of 26th and 28th September, 1998 some film stars have been apprehended for illegal hunting of wild animals. Cases under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 have been filed against the alleged offenders in the Court of Law.

(b) No specific report of any member of Royal family being involved in the said case has been received from the State Government.

Impact of reduction in import duty on Sugar

2199. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Finance has proposed to reduce import duty on sugar;

(b) if so, what would be its impact on the indigenous sugar industry; and

(c) what is the availability of sugar and estimated demand for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The production of sugar for the current sugar season 1998-99 is provisionally estimated at 150 lakh tonnes. Taking into account the closing stock of sugar of 53.7 lakh tonnes as on 30.9.98 the total availability of sugar is estimated at 203.7 lakh tonnes in sugar season 1988-99. The internal consumption of sugar and exports are provisionally estimated at 144.00 lakh tonnes and 0.8 lakh tonnes respectively.

Release of Traders arrested under PBA

2200. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traders arrested under Prevention of Black Marketing Act (PBA) by State Governments can be released by the Central Government after reviewing their cases;

(b) whether Government propose to amend such provisions in order to ensure that action taken by State Government is not nullified by the Central Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Under the Prevention of Blackmarketing & Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, the detention orders made by the State Governments can be revoked or modified by the Central Government.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) No suggestion in this regard has been received from any quarter.

Import of Australian Wheat

2201. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state: